Appendix 11

Temple Dedicatory Prayers
(Excerpts)

The dedicatory prayers of the temples are inspired statements and supplications. The following selections illustrate important points of LDS doctrine, especially related to the nature and importance of temples. The first LDS Temple in Kirtland, Ohio, was dedicated by the Prophet Joseph Smith and because the entire text is given as Doctrine and Covenants section 109, it is not included in this Appendix. Spelling and punctuation of the printed sources are preserved.

St. George Temple (First Temple in Utah)

Dedicatory prayer by President Daniel H. Wells, April 6, 1877

We thank Thee, O Lord, that Thy people... have been enabled to gather together the materials of which this building is composed; to put together and erect the same, even a Temple, which we dedicate and now consecrate to Thee that it may be holy unto Thee the Lord our God, for sacred and holy purposes and that the blessing, even life for evermore, may be commanded here from heaven, even from Thy presence, and may flow through the ordinances which appertain unto Thy holy place, unto us Thy children. We pray that the blessings pertaining to our eternal salvation and to the establishing of Thy Kingdom upon this, Thine earth, may be poured out upon Thy holy Priesthood and Thy people, who shall worship and officiate in this Thy Holy House. ... We pray that Thy blessing may attend those of Thy servants who administer and who may officiate in the ordinances that may be performed therein in behalf of Thy people, and in behalf of those our progenitors, our relatives and friends, who have gone before us to the spirit world, so far as we may be enabled and permitted to officiate for them. We dedicate also to Thee the rooms of this building... for the purposes for which they may be used, by the Priesthood, for prayer, for worship, for councils or meetings, or for administering the Holy Ordinances of Thy House, that they may be holy unto Thee, the Lord Our God. ...

Accept, O God, of this tribute of our hearts, and let Thy peace and blessing dwell and abide here in this Holy Temple, which we now, with uplifted hearts and hands, present and consecrate and dedicate entire as a sacred offering unto Thee for Thine acceptance. May it stand as a monument of purity and holiness as long as the earth shall remain, commemorative of Thy great goodness toward us, Thy People, and Thy name shall have the honor, the praise and glory, for we ask all in Jesus' name, and unto Thee and our blessed Lord and Savior, and to the Holy Spirit be all power, might and dominion worlds without end. Amen. [N. B. Lundwall, Temples of the Most High, pp. 79–83, Salt Lake City, 1947.]
Salt Lake Temple

Dedicated by President Wilford Woodruff, April 6, 1893

We thank Thee, O Thou Great Eloheim, that Thou didst raise up Thy servant, Joseph Smith through the loins of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and made him a Prophet, Seer, and Revelator, and through the assistance and administrations of angels from heaven Thou didst enable him to bring forth the Book of Mormon, the stick of Joseph, in the hand of Ephraim, in fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah and other prophets, which record has been translated and published in many languages. We also thank Thee, our Father in heaven, that Thou didst inspire Thy servant and give him power on the earth to organize Thy Church in this goodly land in all its fullness, power and glory, with Apostles, Prophets, Pastors and Teachers with all the gifts and graces belonging thereto and all this by the power of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood, which Thou didst bestow upon him by the administration of holy angels, who held that Priesthood in the days of the Savior. We thank Thee, our God, that Thou didst enable Thy servant Joseph to build two Temples, in which ordinances were administered for the living and the dead; that he also lived to send the Gospel to the nations of the earth and to the islands of the sea, and labored exceedingly until he was martyred for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

We also thank Thee, O our Father in Heaven, that Thou didst raise up Thy servant Brigham Young, who held the keys of the Priesthood on the earth for many years, and who led Thy people to these valleys of the mountains, and laid the corner-stone of this great Temple. . . .

O Lord, we regard with intense and indescribable feelings the completion of this sacred house. Deign to accept this the fourth Temple which Thy covenant children have been assisted by Thee in erecting in these mountains. In past ages Thou didst inspire with Thy Holy Spirit Thy servants, the prophets, to speak of the time in the latter days when the mountain of the Lord’s house should be established in the tops of the mountains, and should be exalted above the hills. We thank Thee that we have had the glorious opportunity of contributing to the fulfillment of these visions of Thine ancient Seers, and that Thou hast condescended to permit us to take part in the great work. And as this portion of Thy servants’ words has thus so marvellously been brought to pass, we pray Thee, with increased faith and renewed hope, that all their words with regard to Thy great work in gathering Thine Israel and building up Thy kingdom on earth in the last days may be as amply fulfilled, and that, O Lord, speedily. . . .

And today we dedicate the whole [temple] unto Thee, with all that pertains unto it, that it may be holy in Thy sight; that it may be a house of prayer, a house of praise and of worship; that Thy glory may rest upon it; that Thy holy presence may be continually in it; that it may be the abode of Thy Well-Beloved Son, our Savior; that the angels who stand before Thy face may be the hallowed messengers who shall visit it, bearing to us Thy wishes and Thy will, that it may be sanctified and consecrated in all its parts holy unto Thee, the God of Israel, the Almighty Ruler of Mankind. And we pray Thee that all people who may enter upon the threshold of this, Thine House, may feel Thy power and be constrained to acknowledge that Thou hast sanctified it, that it is Thy House, a place of Thy holiness. . . .
O Thou God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, whose God Thou delightest to be called, we thank Thee with all the fervor of overflowing gratitude that Thou hast revealed the powers by which the hearts of the children are being turned to their fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children, that the sons of men, in all their generations can be made partakers of the glories and joys of the kingdom of heaven. Confirm upon us the spirit of Elijah, we pray Thee, that we may thus redeem our dead and also connect ourselves with our fathers who have passed behind the veil, and furthermore seal up our dead to come forth in the first resurrection, that we who dwell on the earth may be bound to those who dwell in heaven. We thank Thee for their sake who have finished their work in mortality, as well as for our own, that the prison doors have been opened, that deliverance has been proclaimed to the captive, and the bonds have been loosened from those who were bound. We praise Thee that our fathers from last to first, from now, back to the beginning, can be united with us in indissoluble links, welded by the Holy Priesthood and that as one great family united in Thee and cemented by Thy power, we shall together stand before Thee, and by the power of the atoning blood of Thy Son be delivered from all evil, be saved and sanctified, exalted and glorified. Wilt Thou also permit holy messengers to visit us within these sacred walls and make known unto us with regard to the work we should perform in behalf of our dead. And, as Thou has inclined the hearts of many who have not yet entered into covenant with Thee to search out their progenitors, and in so doing they have traced the ancestry of many of Thy Saints, we pray Thee that Thou wilt increase this desire in their bosoms, that they may in this way aid in the accomplishment of Thy work. Bless them, we pray Thee, in their labors, that they may not fall into errors in preparing their genealogies; and furthermore, we ask Thee to open before them new avenues of information and place in their hands the records of the past, that their work may not only be correct but complete also.

And now, our Father, we bless Thee, we praise Thee, we glorify Thee, we worship Thee, day by day we magnify Thee, and give Thee thanks for Thy great goodness towards us, Thy children, and we pray Thee, in the name of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Savior, to hear these our humble petitions, and answer us from heaven, Thy holy dwelling place where Thou sittest enthroned in glory, might, majesty, and dominion, and with an infinitude of power which we, Thy mortal creatures, cannot imagine, much less comprehend. Amen and Amen. [Lundwall, Temples of the Most High, pp. 126–36, Salt Lake City, 1947.]

**Hawaii Temple** (First Outside of North America)

Dedicated by President Heber J. Grant, November 27, 1919

We thank Thee, O God, the Eternal Father, that Thou and Thy Son, Jesus Christ, didst visit the boy, Joseph Smith, Jr., and that he was instructed by Thee and Thy beloved Son.

We thank Thee that Thou didst send Thy servant, John the Baptist, and that he did lay his hands upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery and ordain them to the Aaronic, or Lesser, Priesthood.
We thank Thee for sending Thy servants Peter, James and John, Apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ who ministered with the Savior in the flesh and after His crucifixion, and that they did ordain Thy servants Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ, and bestowed upon them the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood, by which Authority and Apostleship we do dedicate unto Thee, this day, this holy edifice.

We thank Thee for the integrity and devotion of Thy servants, the Prophet and the Patriarch, Joseph Smith and Hyrum Smith. We thank Thee that they labored all the days of their lives, from the time of the restitution of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until the day of their martyrdom, and that they sealed their testimony with their blood. . . .

We thank Thee that the plates containing the Book of Mormon were preserved so that they could be translated, and that Thy words to the Prophet Joseph Smith might be fulfilled; namely, That the Lamanites might come to the knowledge of their fathers, and that they might know the promises of the Lord, and that they may believe the Gospel and rely upon the merits of Jesus Christ, and be glorified through faith in His name, and that through their repentance, they might be saved.

We thank Thee, that thousands and tens of thousands of the descendants of Lehi, in this favored land, have come to a knowledge of the gospel, many of whom have endured faithfully to the end of their lives. We thank Thee, our Father and our God, that those who are living and who have embraced the gospel are now to have the privilege of entering into this holy house and laboring for the salvation of the souls of their ancestors. . . .

We also thank Thee for sending Thy servants, Moses, and Elias, and Elijah, to the Kirtland temple, and delivering to Thy servants, Joseph and Oliver the keys of every dispensation of the gospel of Jesus Christ from the days of Father Adam down to the present dispensation, which is the dispensation of the fulness of times.

We thank Thee, that Elijah has appeared and that the prophecy of Thy servant Malachi, that the hearts of the fathers should be turned to the children, and the hearts of the children to the fathers, lest the earth be smitten with a curse, has been fulfilled in our day, and that our hearts in very deed, go out to our fathers; and we rejoice beyond our ability to express that we can, through the ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ, become saviors of our ancestors. . . .

. . . We have dedicated this House unto Thee, by virtue of the Priesthood of the Living God which we hold, and we most earnestly pray that this sacred building may be a place in which Thou shalt delight to pour out Thy Holy Spirit in great abundance, and in which Thy Son may see fit to manifest Himself and to instruct Thy servants. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen and Amen. [Lundwall, Temples of the Most High, pp. 151–59, Salt Lake City, 1947.]

Swiss Temple (First Temple in Europe)

Dedicated by President David O. McKay, September 11, 1955

O Father, we sense that the crying need of the world today is acceptance of Jesus Christ and his Gospel to counteract false teachings that now disturb the peace of honest men and women, and which undermine the faith
of millions whose belief in Thee has been faltering and unstable, because they have not yet had presented unto them the eternal Plan of Salvation.

Guide us, O God, in our efforts to hasten the day when humanity will renounce contention and strife, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

To this end bless the leaders of nations that their hearts may be cleared of prejudices, suspicion, and avarice, and filled with a desire for peace and righteousness.

As one means of uniting the children in the bond of peace and love, this Temple and other Holy Houses of the Lord are erected in thy Name.

Help Thy people to realize that only by Obedience to the eternal principles and ordinances of the Gospel may loved ones who died without baptism be permitted the glorious privilege of entrance into the Kingdom of God. Increase our desire, O Father, to put forth even greater effort toward the consummation of Thy purpose to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of all thy children. This edifice is one more means to aid in bringing about this divine consummation. . . .

May this building ever be held sacred, that all who enter may feel a peaceful and hallowed influence, and may those who pass the grounds whether members or non-members of the Church feel a hallowed influence and substitute for a doubt or possible sneer in their minds, a prayer in their hearts.

Now, O God, Our Heavenly Eternal Father, the faithful membership of thy Church, through love for Thee and thy children, have erected to Thee by tithes and offerings this Holy House in which shall be performed ordinances and ceremonies pertaining to the happiness and salvation of thy children living in mortality and in the Spirit World.

Accept of our offering, hallow it by Thy Holy Spirit and protect it from destructive elements and the bitterness of ignorance and wickedness of bigoted hearts until its divine purposes shall have been consummated; and Thine be the glory, honor, and praise forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen and Amen! [Church News, p. 4, September 17, 1955.]

**New Zealand Temple** (First Temple in South Pacific)

Dedicated by President David O. McKay, April 20, 1958

We express gratitude that to these fertile islands Thou didst guide descendants of Father Lehi, and hast enabled them to prosper, to develop, and to become associated in history with leading and influential nations among mankind. [Church News, pp. 2, 6, May 10, 1958.]

**London Temple**

Dedicated by President David O. McKay, September 7, 1958

O God, our Heavenly Father, Thou who hast created all things, whose Plans Infinite and Progressive, ever serve to foster closer relationship between Thee and the human family. We, Thy children assemble before Thee
this day in gratitude and praise. Thou hast said that Thy work and Thy Glory is "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

Therefore, human beings are engaged in life's highest activity when they cooperate with Thee in bringing about this consummation. . . . Temples are but one means of man's cooperation with Thee in accomplishing this divine purpose. . . .

When in the Middle Ages the Church departed from Christ's teachings, Thou didst inspire honest, upright men here in Great Britain to raise their voices against corrupt practices. Mingling with the denunciatory messages of Luther and Melanchthon in Germany, and Zwingli in Switzerland, were the voices of George Wishart, and later John Knox of Scotland. We thank Thee that before the scorching flames silenced his tongue and reduced his body to ashes Thou didst permit George Wishart to glimpse that: "This Realm shall be illuminated with the light of Christ's Evangel as clearly as ever was any Realm since the days of the Apostles. The house of God shall be builded in it; yea, it shall not lack the very capstone."

Much clearer was the inspiration given President Wilford Woodruff, and President Joseph F. Smith, and other more recent Apostles, who stated prophetically that: "Temples of God . . . will be erected in the divers countries of the earth," and that "Temples will appear all over the land of Joseph—North and South America—and also in Europe and elsewhere; and all the descendants of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, who received not the Gospel in the flesh, must be officiated for in the temples of God, before the Savior can present the kingdom to the Father, saying, "It is finished." [Church News, p. 3, September 13, 1958.]

Provo Utah Temple

Dedicated by President Harold B. Lee, February 9, 1972

O God, the Eternal Father, the Creator of heaven and earth and all things that in them are; Thou Man of Holiness who hast created us, Thy children in Thine own image and likeness, and endowed us with power and agency to follow Thee; Thou who knowest all things and hast all power, all might, and all dominion; Thou who created the universe and ruleth with justice and equity and mercy over all the works of Thy hands—hallowed be Thy great and holy name! . . .

O our Father, we seek to be like Thee; we seek to pattern our lives after the life of Thy Son; we desire righteousness, for ourselves and our children and our children's children; we turn our faces to this holy house; and we plead with Thee to make us worthy to inherit the fulness of those blessings found only in Thy holy temples—even those blessings which grow out of the continuation of the family unit forever.

Thou knowest, O Father, that we seek these blessings, not only for ourselves and our descendants, but also for our forebears; for Thou hast said that we, as saviors on Mount Zion, have power to save and redeem our worthy dead; we seek so to do, and we plead for Thy guidance and directing light as we go forward in this work—one of the greatest ever revealed to the children of men in any age of the earth. . . .

We thank Thee, O our God, that Thou didst ordain and establish the Constitution of the United States "by the hands of wise men whom" Thou
didst raise up unto this very purpose. We thank Thee for the freedoms and "rights and privileges" which are guaranteed to us in this sacred document and pray that they may be established forever. . . .

Let that great temple of learning, The Brigham Young University, and all that is associated with it, and all other church schools, institutes, and seminaries—be prospered to the full. . . .

May those who teach and study in all academic fields have their souls enlightened with spiritual knowledge, so they will turn to Thy house for blessings and knowledge and learning that surpass all that may be found elsewhere.

. . . acting in the authority of that priesthood which is after the order of Thy Son and in His Holy Name, we dedicate this Temple unto Thee, the Lord.

We dedicate it as a house of baptism, a house of endowment, a house of marriage, and a house of righteousness, for the living and the dead. . . .

O Lord God of our fathers, who sitteth upon Thy throne, and who liveth, and reigneth over all things—blessed be Thy Holy Name, both now and forever.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Thine Only Son, even so, amen and amen. [Church News, pp. 4–5, February 12, 1972.]

Washington [D.C.] Temple

Dedicated by President Spencer W. Kimball, November 19, 1974

Father, we are concerned with the political world of today, and that nations seem to need only the lighting of a match to bring war and desolation and destruction. Bless, we pray Thee, the leaders of nations, that they may rule wisely and righteously, and give Thy people freedom to worship Thee in truth and righteousness. Stay the powers, our Father, that would bring us to the brink of annihilation. . . .

Our Gracious Father, there are national gates which seemingly need to be unlocked and doors that need to be opened, and hearts of kings, presidents, emperors, and ministers, which need to be softened, that they may permit the gospel to be taken to their people.

Our Father, bless the countless millions in the world, that they may receive Thy truth, and bless the missionaries on whom the sun never sets, that nothing will prevail against them in their faithful presentation of Thy gospel to the world, and bless especially, our Father, the children of Thy people in overseas countries, that they may devote their sons to this holy work. Wherein we have failed, help us to see our duties; wherein we have been prevented, open the doors, we pray, and swing the gates wide open and let Thy servants cover the earth with their testimonies. [Church News, p. 5, November 23, 1974.]

Mexico City Temple

Dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, December 2, 1983

Bless thy saints in this great land and those from other lands who will use this temple. Most have in their veins the blood of Father Lehi. Thou hast kept thine ancient promise. Many thousands "that walked in darkness
have seen a great light.” (Isaiah 9:2) May the harvest that we have witnessed here foreshadow greater things to come as Thy work rolls on in power and majesty in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times. [Church News, pp. 4–5, December 11, 1983.]

**Freiberg Germany Temple** (First in Eastern Europe)

Dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, June 29, 1985

We are met here today as people of various nations bound by a common love for thee our Father and thy Son, the Redeemer of all mankind. We thank Thee for the peace which makes this possible and for the hospitality of this nation in permitting us to join together in this house of sacred worship. Our hearts are touched by the bond of fellowship we feel one with another. Strengthen that bond, and may we reach out in a spirit of love and appreciation and respect for one another. This gospel, which so deeply touches our lives, is the gospel of peace. May we grow in knowledge and understanding of thine everlasting plan for thy children, thy sons and daughters of all nations. . . .

Father, we thank thee for the measure of peace to be found in the world, and pray that it may continue and grow that men and women everywhere may use their time, their talents, and their means for good. May understanding and respect increase between the nations of the earth. [Church News, p. 5, June 30, 1985.]

**Johannesburg South Africa Temple**

Dedicated by President Gordon B. Hinckley, August 24, 1985

We thank thee for the dimensions of thy Church in this nation of South Africa. We thank thee for men and women of great strength who constitute its membership, for the goodness of their lives, for the manner in which thou hast enlightened their minds and quickened their understanding of thy ways and thy purposes. Many of them, dear Father, sacrificed much in years past to travel afar to partake of those blessings which are available only in the Lord’s House. . . .

Wilt thou whisper peace to thy people by the power of thy Spirit when they come here with burdened hearts to seek direction in their perplexities. Wilt thou comfort and sustain them when they come in times of sorrow. Wilt thou give them courage, direction, and faith, when they gather, as to a refuge, from the turmoil of the world. Wilt thou reassure them of thy reality and divinity, and of the reality and divinity of thy resurrected Son. Wilt Thou endow them with love in their hearts for their ancestors who have gone before and with a great desire to labor in behalf of these their forebears.

Almighty God, wilt thou overrule for the blessing and safety of thy faithful saints. We pray for peace in this troubled land. Bless this nation which has befriended thy servants. May those who rule in the offices of government be inspired to find a basis for reconciliation among those who now are in conflict one with another. May the presence of thy house on the soil of this land bring blessings to the entire nation. [Church News, p. 5, 1 September 1985.]